

The Bookworm

Newsletter from Friends of the Ripley Library

Volume 9, Issue 4

April 2020

Ripley Library Board:
Earl Freling, Pres.
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Library Director:
Rhonda Thompson
Clerks:
Stephanie Feiss
Stella McKillip
Bookworm/About Town
Editor: *Robyn Albright*

Friends of the Ripley
Library Welcome You

NOTE:
New Temporary
Hours of Operation

Currently closed
until further notice

Monday 10 - 5
Tuesday 10 - 7:30
Wednesday 10 - 5
Thursday 10 - 5
Friday 10 - 5
Saturday 9 - 2
Sunday Closed

A Note About COVID19

From Ripley Library Director, Rhonda Thompson

These are strange times in which we find ourselves. We have certainly been reminded how quickly life can change. We are also reminded that we are not in control of everything. There is absolutely a greater force out there. Perhaps this is something that will help us find our strength again as Americans, neighbors and small town community members. Many of our lives were getting very petty and everything was becoming political. Maybe people need this to remind us how much we need each other.

Maybe we can learn something from corona. This virus does not discriminate. It likes all of us. It does not care what color we are, what shape our face is, whether we are male or female, fat or thin, blond, brunette, red or purple, young, old or in-between. Corona does not care what side of the political aisle we are on. As long as we are human, corona is okay with that. Maybe we should become more like corona, looking to help and support **everyone** without bias. We should stop looking for ways to purposely upset people or make things hard on them. Life is hard enough without people attacking one another.

We need to be supporting our heroes right now. Those people in health care who go out there every day, putting themselves in harm's way to help those who are in need, as well as the researchers who are frantically working to find a way to help those affected and to develop a vaccine for the future. Remember those who are providing food and a check-in on those who cannot and should not be out.

Continued on Page 2

Friends of the Library Meeting:
No currently scheduled meeting

Continued from Page 1

Support the teachers who are teaching from home using technology to the best of their ability with the resources available. They are the heroes for the children right now, and the parents who are at home with these kids becoming the in-house teachers. People who are deemed essential, and must continue to put themselves out there, exposing themselves to the virus every day. We are all contributing and we are all heroes. Therefore, we should all be supporting each other in any way possible.

I was not planning to get so deep and philosophical in this letter, but this situation makes me do a lot of thinking. We also have to do what we can to stay positive. There are many things to occupy ourselves. We have it easier than people from previous pandemics. We have to stay in like they did, but we have TV, computers, smart phones etc. We have ways to stay connected even if we have to be apart. There is much we can do. Just call a person who lives alone and talk to them to brighten their day.

Here at the library we are taking this to heart and will be putting things on our website in the near future that will provide you with entertainment, knowledge, and activities to keep your mind sharp. Please stay tuned to our webpage at www.ripleylibrary.org. We are working on some ways to keep you busy and active.

Also remember there are electronic books available through the system. Just go to www.cclsny.org. There you will find access to many items along with e-books. Right now you will not even need a library card to access these. Go ahead use them. We pay a monthly bill to help buy the e-books for our patrons to use. You can also get into Ancestry and other databases through the system website.

Explore all there is to offer through Ripley Public Library.

We are here for you and I can always be reached at director@ripleylibrary.org.

Signing off until I can say “see you at the library” again.

2020 United States Census

National Census Day is April 1st (no foolin’). In mid-March you will receive a notice to take part in the census, which takes place every ten years. You are encouraged to go online to fill out your census information. The Census Bureau DOES NOT release your information to any other agencies. It is safe to be counted and it is necessary to be counted.

“Data that is gathered from the census helps determine governmental district boundaries, ensures states are accurately represented in the U.S. House of Representatives, and is part of the formulas for how federal funding is allocated among social service agencies, highway planning, educational grants and other types of programs.

“The Constitution requires that everyone living in the United States participate in the census every 10 years. People of color, those living in poverty, people experiencing homelessness, rural communities, religious minorities and immigrant communities often go undercounted. Fear, mistrust and lack of awareness about the process are among the reasons some don’t participate.” (excerpt from the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. [CLINIC] website).

Individual census data is not shared with any other government agency. Vulnerable individuals, i.e. those who are in this country illegally, can safely be counted among the population, and SHOULD be counted.

Did you know...

When an infected person sneezes or coughs, more than half a million virus particles can spread to those nearby.

The Spanish Flu pandemic of 1918 contributed to as many as 500 million deaths worldwide, 675,000 in America. This accounted for about one third of the world's population at the time, which was 1.5 billion. Today the world's population is over 7 billion.

Although called the "Spanish Flu," in fact it is unknown where this flu virus originated. The epidemic lasted for three years, from January 1918 through December 1920. World War I was raging in Europe and reports of the flu were suppressed by the governments of Germany, Austria, France, the United Kingdom and the United States so as to not give the enemy that information. However, Spain, a neutral country, had no constraints on reporting about the flu, and therefore gave the inaccurate impression that Spain was bearing the brunt of the disease.

In 1918-20 the high death rate can be attributed to the crowding in military camps and urban environments, as well as poor nutrition and sanitation which many people suffered during wartime. Many of these deaths are believed to have been from the development of bacterial pneumonia in lungs weakened by influenza. No anti-viral drugs were available then, as they are now.

By contrast, COVID-19 has to date (March 29, 2020) infected approximately 680,000 people worldwide, and 125,000 in the United States. Of these, approximately 32,000 deaths have been reported, with 2,000 of those in the U.S., the most of any single nation.

America is in the early stages of the virus spread and we can expect many more cases and deaths in the weeks and months to come. One of the problems with COVID-19 is that it is a new virus and the medical and scientific communities do not yet know for sure how the virus is transmitted, whether or not it will mutate, or how to effectively treat someone with the virus.

Our best defense against COVID-19, or coronavirus, is the one most of us have been practicing for the last few weeks: social distancing, hand washing, and coughing or sneezing into the crook of the elbow. If you are sick, STAY HOME. We can and will get through this most recent threat to the world's population if we all cooperate and do our part to stop the spread!

References for this article: <https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health>

<https://theconversation.com/10-misconceptions-about-the-1918-flu-the-greatest-pandemic-in-history-133994>

Advocate for Libraries

On February 28, 2020, Rhonda Thompson and Robyn Albright attended an Advocate for Libraries meeting held at Hazeltine Library in Busti, New York. New York State Assemblyman Andy Goodell met with librarians and staff from several of Chautauqua county's libraries, explaining the budget process and fielding questions regarding the State's support of its libraries.

Rep. Goodell recognizes that libraries have had to do more with less for a long time. We have 2020 expenses on 1980 budgets. Libraries have greatly expanded their roles in the community, and remain a vital part of towns and villages. Many of Chautauqua County libraries are struggling and need help with construction projects and just plain maintenance. The Ripley Public Library in particular, occupies a former church, which was built in 1892. While the building itself is structurally sound, many updates are needed for the electrical system, as well as plumbing and heating. And as you know, the interior of the building is being completely remodeled in order to serve our community more fully.

In previous issues of The Bookworm we asked our readers to write to your congressmen and women to advocate for your local library. These are but a few of the reasons why you should send a letter now, demanding fully funded libraries.

The library representatives were very forthcoming in sharing what they do for their patrons in addition to loaning books. One librarian in particular, **Judith Whittaker from the Ellington Library** wrote out a very compelling report of what their little library has done. In her words:

"Libraries help serve communities by connecting people with organizations. Here's an example: We ran the Summer Reading Pro-

gram "Build a better World" a few years back. I'd like to tell you what the impact was of that summer. We went with the Build a better community theme so we were trying to teach the children ways they can positively affect their town. We invited members of the community to speak to the children. We had the Volunteer Firefighters as well as the Junior Firefighters. Our children at that time were too young to join the junior firefighters but we had one 10 year old girl that asked so many questions and was interested in everything they had to say but she could not join because of her age. Flash Forward two years: I found out that when she was old enough, she joined the Junior Volunteer Firefighters in the Town of Ellington. Once she joined, a few other children from our Summer Reading group joined also and the Junior Firefighters told me they have never had such an increase in enrollment in many years. They credited that increase in enrollment with us inviting them to speak to the children at the library.

"Now we also invited the Humane Society to come and talk to the children about volunteer opportunities with their organization. From that talk we had 3 young people and their families go on to volunteer with them.

"Libraries make connections. We give the organizations an opportunity and a place outside of their own building, to promote themselves, find new members and engage with the community.

"We also empower the residents. One way we do that is we empower residents of our community by offering them the services they need to *start businesses*. Some residents in Ellington don't have home computers, reliable Internet or maybe they lack a printer. But they have an entrepreneurial spirit. The library empowers them to be able to run small home based businesses.

Continued Page 5

Advocate for Libraries, cont.

“How do we do that? They come to the library because we offer patron computers, free Wi-Fi and printing/faxing services. They then use these services to printout shipping labels for their products, maintain their websites, order needed parts AND communicate with their customers. There is an Amish community that regularly uses our fax machine to send invoices out to companies they do business for. In small rural communities, we ARE the only organization in the town to offer these services to the public.

“Now these may be very small home based businesses but— we all know billion dollar companies that had their start in garages. If we don’t fund libraries it will affect the business being conducted in our small communities.

“Yes we offer books, dvds, programs, etc. but the most important things that I want the State government to realize that libraries do is—We engage our community by offering connections and we empower our residents with our services. We gladly play those roles but if we’re not funded, if the library in a town closes up, there is nobody that can fulfill that role as well as we do. In some towns, there is not even one organization that can offer these things to the community. In order to continue doing that, we need to be fully funded.”

We urge you to write to your representatives in State government. Tell them how important Ripley Library is to you what it would mean to lose our library!

Assemblyman Andrew Goodell

goodella@nyassembly.gov

Senator George Borrello

borrello@nysenate.gov

E-Books

E-books have been available for quite awhile, and many of our patrons “check out” e-books from the Ripley Library. But did you know e-books are not free to the library? The library needs to buy a license to have these books for their readers. And unlike purchasing a book, where you pay for it and it’s yours, the license is only good for a specified period of time. If the library wants to renew its license, it must pay again.

The Ripley Public Library is a “free” library, which means you can check out books and materials without paying a fee. However, if you would like to help defray the cost of these e-books, you may want to consider a small donation to the library. It will be greatly appreciated!



Ebooks Vs Textbooks

In this election year it is more important than ever to understand the process of politics. As much as we hope our politicians are honorable and working in our best interests, it isn't always that easy. The following is the first in a series of articles written by Mary Ellen Humphrey who served as both a state representative and senator.

Adventures in Politics Land

Or Politics 101

By Mary Ellen Humphrey, former State House and Senate Member

I don't talk much about my foray into politics. It was over twenty years ago, and I like to think of myself as "recovering" in that somewhat embarrassing sense, "I'm a recovering politician." Please don't hate me because I was a legislator.

That said, the other side of me is enthusiastic about what I learned and proud of what I accomplished during my two terms as a House member and my one term as a State Senator. I never thought of myself as a politician but rather as a citizen legislator. The pay wasn't much, so really, you were a volunteer, at least that's how I viewed it.

Every legislator is assigned a committee, and mine was ED& A (which stands for Executive Departments and Administration). Thoughts of something more glamorous like the Finance Committee or Education were silly, unbeknownst to me, because such plums are reserved for seasoned members and especially those who supported the speaker's election. I would learn all about this as time went on.

There are so many protocols and traditions in the State House, and committee assignments are where you start learning them. You are seated around a large U-shaped table according to party and tenure, so being a newly elected representative, I was seated at the end of the majority party and next to the first member of the minority party. Sylvia sat beside me, and I never understood why because she had lots of seniority. This was pre-women in leadership roles, and there was an unspoken rule that men came first then women. When I scanned the committee room

seating arrangement, it became obvious and some part of me deep down didn't like that. That angst would surface later, to my great surprise and that of my colleagues, but that's a story for another time.

During my three terms, I witnessed the election of our first women to serve, one as Speaker of the House and the other as the first female Governor. You can't imagine the uproar in the halls of the State House! I'll also share that later on.

There were two lessons I quickly learned thanks to Sylvia, who was a wonderful and wise legislator. Sylvia nodded at my journal sitting on the table in front of me. I used it to make notes and try to figure out what was happening. "Put that away," she ordered. "Another Rep got in big trouble last year keeping a journal."

Into my bag it went as I pondered what kind of trouble this mysterious member had gotten into. It didn't stop me from keeping notes however.

The second lesson Sylvia imparted came when one of the newly elected female members of the minority party had a dispute with the Chairman. Finally, frustrated, she ran out of the committee room in tears. Sylvia leaned over and whispered sternly, "NEVER let them see you cry."

I never did.

I arrived naive and unprepared. The first year was confusing and sometimes downright overwhelming. My more sophisticated and experienced colleagues assured me that it would all make sense, but I protested, "Where is the rule book?" At the end of my first term, on a lark, I put together a small rule book for them, expecting it to be my departing gift. Instead they convinced me to run for a second term because I was now experienced and could do a better job—I owed it to my constituents, they insisted.

Eighteen years after my tenure at the State House ended, it surprised me to learn that the House Clerk's office printed copies of my little rule book to hand out to all the newly elected representatives. The young legislators didn't realize I was the author of the booklet they found both humorous and useful. I could have used it when first elected.



We Asked—You Responded

We wanted to know what you wanted to read about and several requests came in for historical stories about Ripley. Thank you to those who took the time to let us know what interests you!

“Our Town by M.S. Niebauer

“...if something is going on that could definitely be improved, we should all be made aware of it, too. There are so many things which could be improved if an organization or just a few interested people could get behind it.

“For instance, a new library building (which the library association has started a fund for—but needs lots more help), perhaps a community swimming pool (which the town board has discussed) - and then there is a definite need for a community building (the Hamilton House is long gone for that purpose now). An inexpensive block building on the town-owned lot has been discussed during at least one town board meeting. If there were enough push from enough people and a little organization—many things which the town needs could be accomplished. Extension of sewer and water facilities are definitely needed, too, but that takes a lot more in the way of funds than some other town projects.

“Just a simple plaque with our servicemen’s names, to be placed in front of the town hall, is something the American Legion has been working on, but they need cooperation of all the people to make such an idea a success. And people who are willing to do a little community work...are they asking too much?

“If you think any of these things sound worthwhile, get a group together, attend some board meetings, find out what has been done, what can be done, and how you

can help. Or is it true? Don’t people like to be involved in anything anymore????”

Editors note: These excerpts were taken from the November 10, 1971 issue of the Ripley Review, a local town newspaper that informed and entertained the people of Ripley since the late 1800s. (Does anyone know when the Ripley Review actually started?)

At the time of this article, Ripley was not quite six years out from a devastating fire that destroyed many of the businesses along Main Street, on January 1, 1965.

If you noticed, this plea for involvement from the community was written almost 50 years ago. What has changed in the interim?

The library has found a home in the former Baptist Church on the corner of Main and Goodrich Streets.

A community swimming pool never took root.

Was there ever a community center? Was that “block building” ever built?

Forty-nine years later the water and sewer project is finally being accomplished. Water and sewer, when finished, will extend on to Shortman Road, where a major building project, Love’s Travel Center, will be completed in the near future.

A “simple plaque” honoring our service men and women was achieved in 2008 with the construction of the Ripley Veterans Roll of Honor monument that sits on the Ripley Central School lawn near Main Street. This was a major project accomplished by the combined efforts of Roger Testrake, Dave Bower, (Francis) Butch Joint, Bob McIntosh, Bob Bentley, Karen Krause, Pete Ryan, Robert Gibbs, William Mulson, Arthur Wright, and Marie McCutcheon. In addition to the monument which lists the names, rank and service branch of all veterans who live or lived in Ripley, there are also plaques of service medal winners, Veterans of Valor, on the site of the monument.



Ribbon cutting: l-r

Roger Testrake, Pete Ryan, Karen Krause, Greg Edwards, Bob Bentley

Travel Logue

By Robyn Albright

Because we are all practicing "Social Distancing," I thought I'd give you a visual tour of a nearby reservoir where people walk, keeping large distances between them. Howard Eaton Reservoir, on the border of South Ripley, New York and North East, Pennsylvania, is a lovely spot to visit and take a nature walk near home.



Howard Eaton Reservoir has a mostly gravel path around the 3.2 mile perimeter. Completely flat, it's an easy walk, with benches every mile or so.

Oh wait! Is that Nessie peeking up out of the water? No, just one of the many logs floating near the surface.



A small overflow stream runs alongside the main reservoir. If you look closely you can see the thousands of frog eggs floating on the surface



This little fella waited patiently to have his picture taken.

The beavers have been hard at work cutting saplings for their dam.



The trees have faces, like watchers in the wood, if you have an imagination.



And fallen trees take on a new life as dragons.

Life finds a foothold even in the most unlikely places.



My Choice

By Sharon McIntosh

The Black Opal

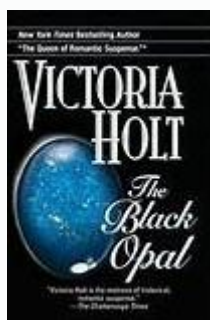
by Victoria Holt

As a new babe, Carmel March was discovered abandoned near the home of Dr. Marline and his sickly wife. She was taken in and raised with their children although never given an equal status.

It was rumored by some that her parentage was somehow entwined with the gypsies who made their annual appearance near the doctor's home. She often secretly visited their encampment and made several close friends there.

At the age of 10, Carmel was taken out of the house after several mysterious events took place. She was sent to Australia, where she continued her education and grew into a lovely young woman.

A young man who showed her much favor and was enamored of finding fortune in the opal mines, always waiting for the black opal to become his urged her to become his wife. After much pondering, Carmel decided on another choice, returned to her childhood home and learned secrets from the gypsies and about her childhood years..



Book Club

Because the library is closed, I'm suggesting you look around your house, find that book you've been meaning to pick up and read and do just that. Dust it off, take a good look at the cover, notice any artwork or signatures

Maybe it's a Farmer's Almanac from 1974, maybe a Reader's Digest somebody loaned you and you haven't looked at for months.

You have time to do those things that you've said, if I only had time, and now you do. Make it a positive time and do something you've been putting off. I'm going to re read Kon Tiki by Thor Heyerdahl. Our grandfather read it to my brother and me when we were young and now I want to read it as an adult and see how different or how much the same I feel about the adventure.

Among Friends

Nancy McIntosh

The last Friends' meeting, held at the Noble Winery was a great success with new faces to see, donations for our Annual Auction, discussion about the library, some laughs, food, wine and great company.

As you may know, the library, like so many other businesses, is closed while we are dealing with coronavirus and its effects. This is a difficult time for everyone. The Friends of the Library will not schedule the next meeting until we get through this trying time.

Be safe. Be informed. Give your friends and neighbors a call. Make the most of this "down" time and don't forget to smile!



One of a Kind Club

By performing one kind act on a daily basis, you have met the criteria. It's that simple. Many times throughout the year I have heard people say, "I just did my kind act of the day". It's not that they're bragging. They just have it in the back of their minds to do it.



The library has One of a Kind t-shirts available. For only \$10 you can show that you are One of a Kind. Available in sizes Small up to 3X. 2X and 3X sizes are \$12.

Bad Timing?

If a class or event is taking place at bad time for you, please call the Ripley Library (716-736-3913) and request a time that is convenient for you. The Library tries to make events available to as many people as possible. Don't be left out!

Quilting & Sewing

The Ripley Library Quilters have been busy. They meet on **Thursdays at 1 pm**. If you've never tried quilting, there are seasoned quilters available to help you. If you are experienced, join in the social side of quilting.

Any sewing project is welcome as well. Open to all levels.

Come sew or quilt!

Meeting Space Available

Until such time as the Library renovations are finished, meeting space is limited. Please check with the library if you need a space to meet. (716)736-3913

Knitters and Crocheters meet every **Tuesday between 3-7:30 pm**.

Learn from experienced knitters or bring your own projects to work on.



Open Craft Can't make it for scheduled craft times? Come on in **Thursdays at 10:30 am**. Bring whatever craft you are working on and settle in with the rest of the group. Knitting, painting, sewing - or whatever your area of interest. Everyone welcome!

Ripley Public Library Mission Statement

The mission of the Ripley Public Library is to promote life-long learning for all community residents, providing unrestricted free access to all printed and recorded material from its own collection as well as that of the Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Library System. The Library will endeavor to create a community center that provides so much more than information for all of those who ask questions and seek answers.

Please Note

All groups and activities have been suspended until further notice. COVID-19 guidelines are in effect and the Ripley Public Library is closed until the "self quarantine" is lifted. We hope to see you again soon!

CCLS 2020 Reading Challenge

The Chautauqua Cattaraugus Library System has issued a challenge for all of us. Can you read 20 books in 2020? They have given us a list of genres to follow. Let's see if we can do it. If you need help finding the right book, just ask one of us to help. Through the system catalog and Google we should be able to find all that you need. The year 2020 is going to be so much fun!

1. Written by a local author
2. Local area mentioned in the book
3. Published the year you were born
4. Published in 2020
5. A story that takes place in a country you've never been to
6. A non-fiction book about science
7. A book being adapted into a movie/ TV show in 2020
8. An audio book from the library or Overdrive
9. A re-telling of a classic fairy tale
10. Book of short stories
11. A book you picked out because of the cover
12. A book with illustrations
13. About mental illness or a character dealing with mental illness
14. A book by someone in their 20s
15. Crime fiction or true crime
16. Book with "20" or "Twenty" in the title
17. Book that takes place in Japan (host of 2020 Olympics)
18. Book about a sport in the summer Olympics
19. Book that takes place in the 1920s
20. A Western

Of course one title can be used for more than one category! Join us on social media with #ccls20in20 You can post the title and/or picture of the book and what category you are reading. No prizes beyond self-satisfaction and connecting to the online community through #ccls20in20. Happy Reading!

Join Friends of the Library Now!

The Friends of the Ripley Library have made a huge difference in not only the library, but in the town as well. We need YOU to join us in doing something worthwhile that benefits our entire community. Membership is as simple as filling out your name, address and phone number and contributing a \$5 per year membership fee. No experience necessary, all ages are welcome. WE NEED YOU!



Thank you so much for your past support. We hope you will become a member and contribute to another great year.

Friends of the Ripley Library Application

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Town/ZIP: _____

Phone Number: (Home) _____ Cell: _____

Email Address: _____

Dues are \$5 annually in January

Print this portion and return it to the library, or pick up a form at the library desk.

FRIENDS OF THE RIPLEY LIBRARY

Friends of the Ripley Library
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Ripley, NY 14775

Phone: 716-736-3913
Fax: 716-736-3923
Riplylib@fairpoint.net
Email: thebookworm14775@gmail.com

Email Newsletter

We rely on email to get our newsletter out. We would like to increase our list of recipients but we need your help to do so. Please tell your friends, relatives and neighbors about The Bookworm and the fun things we're doing at the library. Each month you will also receive an email, About Town. For a monthly copy, send your email address to:

thebookworm14775@gmail.com

If you would like to opt out of our mailing, please let us know at **thebookworm14775@gmail.com**

Library Calendar of Events

- No activities or meetings will take place until further notice, due to the coronavirus.

Library Board Seats

Two Ripley Public Library Board seats will be up for election this June, term beginning July 1st. If you are interested in running for the Library Board, please contact Rhonda Thompson, (716) 736-3913



Notes & Things

If you have a friend or relative who would like to receive cards, phone calls or visits, let us know here at :

thebookworm14775@gmail.com



Stay safe,
stay healthy,
stay home!

